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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/634,877	MATSUKURA ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ramsey Zacharia	1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to response filed 11 April 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. The drawings filed on 06 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/11/2005
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The invention as claimed is directed to a pellicle having a pellicle membrane comprising a substantially linear fluoropolymer having an alicyclic structure in its main chain. The main chain comprises carbon atoms bonded to at least one hydrogen atom and carbon atoms bonded to no hydrogen atoms. The number of hydrogen atoms based on signals appearing on the magnetic field side higher than 2.8 ppm in a high resolution proton magnetic resonance spectrum is at most 6 mol% based on the total number of hydrogen atoms.

Matsukura et al. (US 2001/0024701 A1) represent the closest prior art. Matsukura et al. do not teach the number of hydrogen atoms based on signals appearing on the magnetic field side higher than 2.8 ppm in a high resolution proton magnetic resonance spectrum. The evidence presented in the Declaration filed 21 October 2004 in conjunction with the data presented in the specification demonstrate that the number of signals higher than 2.8 ppm is a function of polymerization temperature. The examples in the specification demonstrate that reactions carried out at 0 °C and 10 °C result in fluoropolymers that satisfy requirement (2) of claims 1, 8, and 15, while reactions carried out at 25 °C and 40 °C fail to satisfy requirement (2). Example 1 in the Declaration demonstrates that a fluoropolymer polymerized at 18-20 °C also fails to satisfy requirement (2). As such, the evidence as a whole demonstrates that Example 1 of the prior art does not inherently satisfy requirement (2) because Example 1 of the prior art is conducted at 18 °C and the record shows that polymerizations run at 18 °C do not necessarily

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result in a material satisfying requirement (2). See MPEP 2112. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a) over Matsukura et al. are withdrawn.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Zacharia whose telephone number is (571) 272-1518. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney, can be reached at (571) 272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ramsey Zacharia
Primary Examiner
Tech Center 1700